



# NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

**TODD P. GRAVES**

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Contact Don Ledford, Public Affairs • (816) 426-4220 • 400 East Ninth Street, Room 5510 • Kansas City, MO 64106

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **DEFIANCE MAN SENTENCED FOR MANUFACTURING CABLE TV DESCRAMBLERS, FILING FALSE TAX RETURN**

**JEFFERSON CITY, Mo.** – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced today that a Defiance, Mo., man has been sentenced in federal court for manufacturing illegal cable TV descramblers and failing to pay income taxes on the money he earned from selling the equipment.

**John A. Figura**, 43, of Defiance, was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Scott O. Wright on June 22, 2005, to five years of probation, including six months of home detention. **Figura** also forfeited \$342,119 to the government, of which \$133,847 will be applied to his tax obligations.

On Sept. 20, 2004, **Figura** pleaded guilty to manufacturing and distributing equipment for the unauthorized reception of cable television channels from January 1996 to April 1, 2000. Approximately 500,000 of the cable TV descramblers were manufactured at EMS Manufacturing in St. Charles, Mo., Art Technologies, LLC in Morgan County, Mo., and the residence of **James Grant Collins**, 40, of Rocky Mount, Mo. **Collins**, who also pleaded guilty to tax fraud and to cable theft, was sentenced in a separate but related case on May 7, 2004, to five years of probation, including six months at a halfway house and 100 hours of community service.

**Figura** also admitted that he filed a fraudulent tax return for 1997. The federal income tax return he filed on April 15, 1998, listed \$67,639 in taxable income. However, Graves said, the return failed to include \$247,795 in additional income **Figura** earned from the illegal manufacture and sale of the cable TV descramblers.

**Figura** also admitted that his tax returns contained unreported income from the illegal activity in 1995 (\$127,277), 1996 (\$63,494), and 1998 (\$387,863). The total tax loss, Graves said, totals \$285,891.

This case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Lawrence E. Miller. It was investigated by Internal Revenue Service - Criminal Investigations and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

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This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at  
[www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow](http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow)